

# Anatomy of a U.S. Utility Patent

**Source:** Country that issued the patent.

**Document number:** The prefix US indicates that this is a U.S. patent.

**Inventor**

**Title of the invention**

**Assignee/Owner**

**Application number and date application filed**

**U.S. Patent Classification:**

Classification codes represent the subject matter of the invention. 36/3A is the code for shoe and boot ventilated uppers. Since 2013 U.S. utility patents have used another classification code system, Cooperative Patent Classification

**Field of search:** Classification codes consulted by the patent examiner.

**Drawing:** Representative drawing selected from the drawing sheets.

**Term:** Twenty years from the date of application. After the patent has expired, the invention enters the public domain. In addition, patent owners must pay a maintenance fee at 3.5, 7.5 and 11.5 years after issuance or else the patent will expire.

**Date of Issue**

**References:** U.S. and foreign patents and other publications cited as related inventions by the inventor and patent examiner.

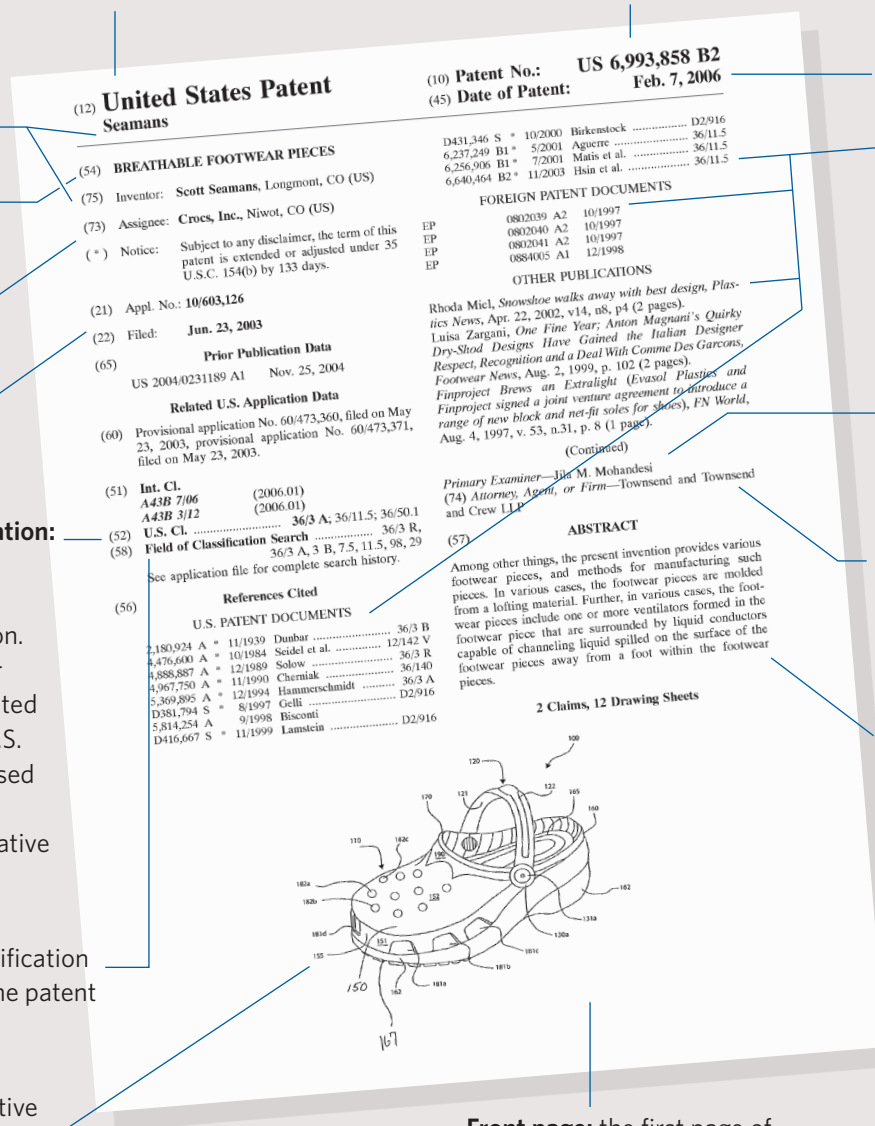
**Patent examiner:** Official who examined the application.

**Patent attorney:** Legal counsel hired by the inventor to prosecute the application.

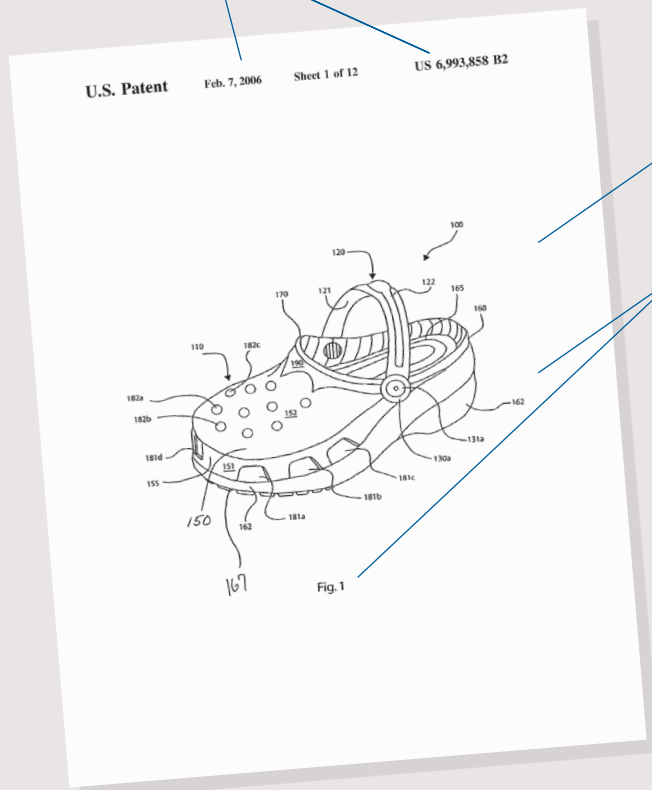
**Abstract:** Simple, non-technical description of the invention.

The USPTO publishes unexamined patent applications 18 months after the earliest filing date. Prior to 2001, applications were kept secret until a patent issued.

**Front page:** the first page of a patent document.



**Document number and date** printed at the top of every sheet.

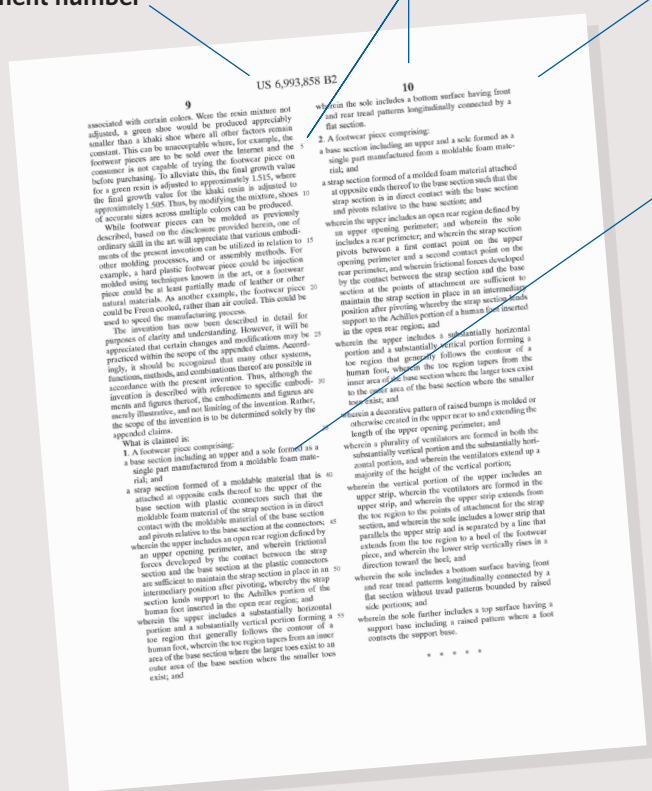


**Drawing sheets:** Located after the front page. Drawings are common in patents for electrical and mechanical devices as well as articles of manufacture.

Drawings must be labeled clearly and provide enough detail for the reader to understand the invention's design and use.

**Document number**

**Column and line numbers**



**Specification:** Written description of the invention that precedes the claims. The specification must describe the invention in sufficient detail so that anyone of ordinary skill in the same technical field can understand it.

**Claims:** Paragraphs located at end of the specification that define the scope of protection of a patent. The phrases "I claim" or "What is claimed" precedes the numbered claims. The claims define the legal boundaries of the invention in the way a property deed defines the physical boundaries of an area of land.

**Types of U.S. patents:**

1. Utility patent: protects new and useful:
  - Products (tool, shoe, toy, etc.)
  - Compositions (chemical compound, alloy, etc.)
  - Machines
  - Processes
2. Design patent: protects new and original:
  - Ornamental designs for articles of manufacture
3. Plant patent: protects distinct and new:
  - Varieties of asexually propagated plants. (Reproduced by means other than seeds, such as grafting, budding, etc.)